



# PUBLIC HEALTH

ALWAYS WORKING FOR A SAFER AND  
HEALTHIER WASHINGTON

## Certificate of Need

Washington State Department of Health  
December 12, 2005



## **Reviewable Activities (*continued*)**

Capacity Increases for:

- ESRDs
- Hospitals
- Nursing Homes
- Hospice Care Center



## **Reviewable Activities** *(continued)*

### New Tertiary Service

- Level I Rehabilitation Programs
- Open Heart Surgery
- Organ Transplantation
- Specialty Burn Services
- Intermediate Care Nursery
- Level II Obstetric Services
- Neonatal Intensive Care Units
- Specialized Inpatient Pediatric Services
- Level III Obstetric Services



## **Reviewable Activities *(continued)***

- Sale, purchase, or lease of hospitals
- Nursing Homes Capital expenditures over \$1M (adjusted for inflation--currently \$1.2M)
- Nursing home bed banking transactions
- Replacement of existing Nursing Homes



## General Review Criteria

- Need
- Financial Feasibility
- Structure and Process of Care
- Cost Containment



## Program Challenges

Clarity regarding

- “Tie Breakers” – who should be awarded when all applicants are qualified but not all are needed?
- Criteria for financial feasibility – what is to be considered?
- What is a tertiary service?
- What constitutes “unnecessary duplication”?
- What is considered a “better alternative.”



## Program Challenges

- Role of the Department after award
  - Is the role of CON only as a “gateway”?
  - Is there, or should there be, explicit authority to enforce standards and conditions post award?
- No review of effectiveness of decisions
- Length and complexity of appeal processes
- Data availability to support evidence basis of decisions

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